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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Metrom factory is a metallurgical factory which works only nonferrous metals. It consists of a number of separate production units on its own premises, and in addition, includes the reighboring factory of Farola, which was incorporated in Metrom after nationalization. Metrom is situated to the left of the Darste-Stalin road, about 400 meters from the Steagul Rosu factory.

2. Foundry equipment at the main premises consists of six methane gas furnaces and one electric furnace. These furnaces are used only for melting metals, making crude alloys and casting, but not for refining processes. There is a refining furnace at Farola, which is dismantled and is to be reassembled in the Metrom foundry, but this had not yet been done by November 1951. Production is mainly of round copper, brass, and nickel bars. These are cut into lengths of 300 mm. by a circular cutter. Also produced are square or flat copper and brass bars. Both round and angled bars are 120 cms. long and between 100 to 120 mm. thick. The Metal Drawing Section has a methane gas furnace to reheat the 300 mm. lengths of round bars made in the foundry. A very powerful pneumatic press with an electric motor which converts the bars into round tubes and long hexagonal bars 60 to 70 mm. thick is used, as are drawing dies which made the tubes and the hexagonal bars still finer. The tubes are considered finished products, while the hexagonal bars are either sold or used by other Metrom units for the manufacture of copper screws and screw couplings. Equipment in the rolling mills consists of a methane gas furnace for the reheating of square or flat bars, a hot roller through which the bars are passed on coming from the reheating furnace and two or three cold rollers through which the bars are passed until they emerge as sheets of metal. There are some stamping presses. The rolling mills produce copper and brass sheets in thicknesses of 4 mm. and up, and two to two and one-half meters in length. Part of this production is used by the stamping presses of the same section for the manu-

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facture of cups used in the production of cartridge cases. Equipment in the tube works consists of four or five exceptionally powerful stamping presses. One press which had long been out of use was repaired in 1951 because of the increasing demand on this section. Since January 1951, the tube works has concentrated almost exclusively on the manufacture of cases for large caliber artillery shells. These are made in three stages:

a. Circular blanks 200 mm. in diameter are cut from copper sheets by a special press;

b. The blanks are reheated and formed into rough cases by two or three more presses;

c. The cases are finished by other machinery.

In addition, tractor parts are made which consist of round pieces of steel with a central hole to hold a shaft or axle. Steel sheets for this purpose are supplied by the Tractorul Factory at Stalin. Machine parts for railroad cars are made by the Steagul Rosu factory. Formerly, the tube works had made domestic metal products such as lamps and kitchen utensils but these have been largely replaced by the manufacture of shell cases.

3. The nearby factory of Farola has a rolling mill, a wire drawing mill, and a pressure foundry. Equipment for the rolling mill consists of one methane gas furnace for the reheating of square or flat bars from Metrom, one hot roller through which the bars are passed on coming from the furnace, and three cold rollers which reduce the bars to sheets. This mill produces copper, brass, aluminium, and alpacca (possibly alpax) sheets of all sizes, both for direct sale and for use in other Metrom production units. The wire drawing mill has sixteen wire drawing machines, not all of which are in use. Two of these machines are of the "Tanks" (sic) type, four are "Bobbins", and one a "Rapid" (sic) machine. Three machines, one new and two old, are used for winding pairs of wires together for electric cables. These mills produce electric wire up to 1½ mm. thick, cable wires up to 3 mm. thick, and complete electric cables. Farola also receives coils of wire ready wound which it reduces in thickness and cuts into lengths for the welding electrodes factory at Metrom. The pressure foundry has one electric foundry and four or five hydraulic presses. These were brought from some other factory during 1951, repaired and installed here. Foundry production is almost exclusively aluminium detonator casings for shells. Molten aluminium is run into machines and the detonator casings are stamped hot.

4. In addition to the original Metrom and Farola installations, a new factory for the production of welding electrodes was built at Metrom in 1949. This factory receives ready-prepared pieces of wire from the Farola wire drawing mill and has eight machines for covering these lengths of wire with a welding mixture. The electrodes are packed in parcels which contain 1,000 pieces in each parcel.

5. Copper and brass bars for the manufacture of electric cables come from the USSR for which the finished products are intended.

6. Detonator casings for grenades are made "by the million". Cases for artillery shells are made in almost as great quantities.

7. Electric cables and wires are sent to the USSR. Tubes, hexagonal bars, and copper and brass sheets are used for the Rumanian Railways. Grenade

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cases and detonator casings are sent to the Tohan munitions factory. Cups for the manufacture of cartridge cases are sent to an unknown arsenal.

8. Since early 1951 Metrom has been guarded by a detachment of infantry troops stationed on the premises. The general manager's name is Ghitescu. He is tall, and a strong man of about 40.

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